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IRAN ARMS
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9 Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., says Congress should create a special committee to give prior approval to covert operations conducted by the CIA and other agencies.

Kastenmeier told The Milwaukee Journal that such a committee could be comprised of the House and Senate minority and majority leaders, the chairmen of the House and Senate intelligence committees, and a few other key members. No more than a dozen members would be involved, he said.

"I think it would end up making covert actions far less relied upon," Kastenmeier said. "Instead of a fair number of them, we would have only a few, and there would be an opportunity to debate them internally, though in secret."

However, Kastenmeier said that he did not feel covert operations like the secret sale of arms to Iran should be banned. These operations might have both negative and positive repercussions, he warned.

Though the Reagan administration has claimed it feared leaks in Congress, Kastenmeier said that no member of Congress has leaked secret information during his two years on the House Intelligence Committee.

Such leaks, he said, come from other agencies not related to Congress.

Kastenmeier, who served on the House Judiciary Committee panel which recommended impeachment of President Nixon, also compared the present scandal to Watergate.

He also called for other changes within the House Intelligence Committee, including the interviewing outside witnesses instead of relying on administration sources only.